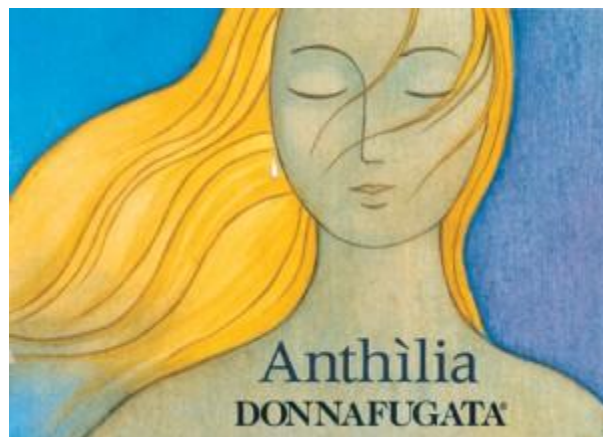


Donnafugata

August 20, 2012 by Dick Rosano



There's a new wave stirring up the wine world. It's online events, including coordinated tastings and webinars. I'm young enough to imagine a future of instant communications, yet old enough to yearn for the days when we coordinated our tastings across the table from one another.

That said, [Donnafugata](#) just transmitted their nighttime harvest live online. José and Antonio Rallo hosted the event live from Sicily and invited fans from around the world to tune in.

The harvest was accompanied by a “live” tasting – although the word seems out of place when it occurs a half-world away – including a four-wine flight of the Fuga Chardonnay, Chiarandà, Tancredi, and Mille e una Notte.

Donnafugata is the venture begun by Giacomo and Gabriella Rallo, current representatives of a Sicilian wine family whose experience stretches back 150 years. Planting their dreams on soil once occupied by the exiled Queen Maria Carolina, wife of Ferdinand IV of Bourbon in the 1800s, the Rallo family established a winery that now includes the next generation: son Antonio and daughter José. Contessa Entellina is the estate on mainland Sicily, and supplemented by vineyards on the tiny nearby island of Pantelleria.

I wasn't able to “attend” the online tasting due to prior commitments, but was able to taste the four wines that were presented. True to the present condition of Sicily's viniculture, Donnafugata is making remarkable and newsworthy wines that deserve a place among the elite of the world.



Donnafugata 2011 Anthilia (white, from Catarratto and Ansonica, \$15). A fruity and floral wine, with soft peach and nectarine flavors, excellent with food. Score: 85

Donnafugata 2008 Chiarandà (white, from Chardonnay and Ansonica, \$40). Ripe fruit and floral aromas, with green apple and peach flavors and a hint of vanilla bean. Score: 86



Donnafugata 2008 Tancredi (Nero d'Avola and Cabernet Sauvignon, \$40). An initial focus on cherries and licorice, with a broad influence of soft spice, a nicely structured wine with great length. Score: 87

Donnafugata 2007 Mille e una Notte (Nero d'Avola, \$80). Viscous and richly textured, initial dark fruit aromas, dense and chewy, light touch of tobacco leaf on finish. Score: 91

<http://theweeklywinepick.com/2012/08/20/donnafugata/>